

**OTAC Minutes**  
*May 15, 2007 – 9am*  
OSU Experiment Station – Aurora

Facilitator: Meta Loftsgaarden

**\*\*Note:** If PowerPoints were used for presentations, or if handouts were provided, they are attached to the minutes, rather than included directly in the text of the minutes. Key points are included below where appropriate.

**Proposed next meeting dates:**  
**August 8, 2007 in Aurora**  
**November 15, 2007 - TBD**

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Bob Graham, NRCS Larry Frey, FSA	Information
<p><b><u>Larry Frey</u></b> – Update Key Points: FSA is in the middle of direct and countercyclical signup for farms. 60 percent of farms are signed up and the total is around 10,000 farms in Oregon. Our field people are taking acreage reports through the county and entering the information into the GIS system. With our CRP program there will be no 2007 and 2008 signups. Right now there is not a disaster program but one is being recommended for the next farm bill.</p> <p><b><u>Bob Graham</u></b> –CIG grant for Oregon will present a briefing in August. The lead of the CIG group is Todd Peplin. The committee is being established. Individuals who asked to be added to the committee at this time include: Sam Asai; Mace Vaughan and Mike Gaudern</p>		
<b>Farm Bill Update</b>	Bob Graham, NRCS	Information
<p>The latest Farm Bill information is available at <a href="http://www.usda.gov/">http://www.usda.gov/</a>. Select the Farm Bill Spotlight link.</p> <p>Discussion topics included: specialty crops, Farm Bill provisions and their relationship to the Doha Round of trade negotiations, CRP provisions and funding for the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill.</p> <p><b><u>Potential Future Meeting topic:</u></b> Relating to the Conservation Reserve Program - PMC – Grasses – harvest time; how do you balance, when to plant the cover for wildlife.</p>		
<b>Using Created Brush Piles as a CRP Management Activity</b>	Lois Loop, FSA	Recommendation: OTAC unanimously passed the recommendation to adopt the management activity with the proposed guidelines set by the subcommittee.
<p>See attached committee report. Key Points: Request was submitted to OTAC at the February 22, 2007 meeting. The subcommittee presented the proposal for the brush practice with parameters on the practice. Subcommittee members are Sam Asai, Tom Hilken, Russ Hatz, Bruce Campbell and Lois Loop.</p> <p><b><u>Additional Recommendation</u></b> Lois Loop to coordinate the final recommendation with Bruce Campbell.</p>		

<b>Basin Work Group Follow-Up</b>	<a href="#">Facilitated Session</a>	<a href="#">Review/Discussion</a>
<p>See attached PowerPoint presentation and initial proposal based on discussions at February meeting. Final recommendation will be distributed once comments are received from members not in attendance. If you would like to comment, please do so by June 1, 2007. Comments can be sent to: <a href="mailto:meta.loftsgaarden@or.usda.gov">meta.loftsgaarden@or.usda.gov</a>.</p> <p>Three breakout groups were formed, containing both NRCS and OTAC members.</p> <p>Groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewed handout proposal on basin work group</li> <li>2. Reviewed communications section</li> <li>3. Discussed specifics about the 'Pay to play' concept and where monitoring fits?</li> </ol> <p>In the long-term, for the proposal to be successful, OTAC members will need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help ensure right people at the table.</li> <li>2. Encourage and support BWG as a subcommittee of OTAC</li> <li>3. Encourage basin-level investment process across agencies.</li> </ol> <p>Group Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue with the subcommittee of OTAC with the BWG concept</li> <li>2. Is this the right direction (with the changes proposed by the group)? – Yes</li> <li>3. Make changes to the document and get back to the group in August.</li> <li>4. Pilot the project on a basin work group that is functioning well.</li> <li>5. Have training session for the facilitators directing the BWG.</li> </ol>		
<b>National Air Quality Trends</b>	<a href="#">Greg Johnson (West National Technology Support Center)</a>	<a href="#">Information</a>
<p>See attached PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>For more information, contact: Greg Johnson, Leader, AQAC Team, WNTSC, Portland, Oregon  <a href="mailto:greg.johnson@por.usda.gov">greg.johnson@por.usda.gov</a>; Phone: 503 273 2424</p>		
<b>Oregon Air Quality</b>	<a href="#">Jennifer Zwicke, NRCS</a>	<a href="#">Information</a>
<p>See attached PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>For more information, Contact: Jennifer Zwicke, State Environmental Engineer  <a href="mailto:jennifer.zwicke@or.usda.gov">jennifer.zwicke@or.usda.gov</a>; Phone: 503 414 3231</p>		
<b>State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)</b>	<a href="#">Lois Loop - FSA</a>	<a href="#">Information</a>
<p>See attached handout.</p> <p>Key Points: A new initiative has been announced by FSA that allows a state-level program to install practices that benefit high priority State wildlife conservation objectives through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat. The program is tied into the Conservation Reserve Program, but acres to be submitted for consideration cannot currently be enrolled in CRP. In addition, new enrolled acres count toward the requirement that no more than 25% of the cropland in any county be in CRP.</p> <p>SAFE allows producers to install practices that benefit high priority State wildlife conservation objectives through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat. The cooperative conservation effort is based on locality-developed conservation proposals that address the highest priority wildlife objectives in the State before the practice may be implemented.</p>		

Based on the tight timeline for receiving applications to the SAFE program and forwarding them to NHQ, a SAFE subcommittee was established to review any applications that come in. A teleconference with all OTAC members will then be arranged to get final recommendations on applications.

**SAFE Subcommittee:**

Russ Hatz, NRCS  
Dalton Straus, FSA  
Tammy Dennee, OWGL  
Sam Asai, FSA

NOTE: Anyone else interested in being on this committee can contact Lois Loop at 503 692-6830, Ext 223.

**Basin Updates**

[Scott Zimmerman & Jeff Goebel, NRCS Basin Team Leaders](#)

[Information](#)

**Scott Zimmerman**

Key Points: NRCS was busy getting funds obligated in EQIP and WHIP by April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The basin has 45 EQIP contracts – 10-15 are directed towards forestry and the rest are plant health, water quality and quantity. Six WHIP applications funded for oak and salmon issues. The April 14<sup>th</sup> basin team meeting featured a presentation by Smith River Watershed Council on liquid chloroform. Douglas and Josephine hosted the CREP training sessions. Jackson County is presenting small landowner workshops. Our approach for the team meetings will be to meet quarterly and use the OTAC method of notifying people, making sure that the agendas go out early with issue papers. The main issues in our basin are the water quality and quantity.

**Jeff Goebel** – EQIP, CSP, and WHIP applications are contracted and implemented. The Lower crooked watershed was selected for a watershed health implementation project. This is a diverse, complex watershed; they have worked out the trust issues; listen to each other, and there is respect. The Basin Group has not met for about a year. Resource Issues in the basin: water quantity, water quality fish issues, plant health, soil quality, reducing chemicals, and energy costs with agriculture.

**CSP Continuing Resolution Payments**

[Bill White, NRCS](#)

[Information](#)

CSP is an annually funded program. No signup this year and probably not next year. 959 CSP contracts and 497 of these received Continuing Resolution Limit payments. These payments were made as a part of the funding received from Congress through the 2007 continuing resolution. Currently, CSP provides \$20.9 million in payments for Oregon.

**Closing Comments**

[OTAC Members](#)

[Information](#)

**Announcements from OTAC Members:**

**Mace Vaughn** - Native pollinator 101 Training will be held on June 26 at the PMC in Corvallis. A second session will be held May 30<sup>th</sup> at the SWCC office in Clackamas.

**Larry Ojua** – There have been thirteen training sessions throughout the state given to the SWCD board members. There are 291 director positions and 168 directors participated in these sessions. Our state has ten districts with taxing authority. Six other districts are interested in getting the tax rate approved.

**Action:** Topic for future OTAC meeting would be to have a Districts come in for the working lunch and update the committee on special projects in their area.

**Steve Vaught** - There have been technicians training on riparian buffer and there is a

cooperative effort to have more of these sessions.

**Action:** Have Department of Forestry give a presentation to OTAC

**Bill Braunworth** – 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary is at the end of the month for animal and crop science divisions of OSU.

**Sandy Halstead** – New attendee at OTAC. Nationally the Columbia River is now listed as a priority watershed nationally with a focus on toxic reduction. EPA has two field offices, Chris Kelly in LaGrande and Allen Henning in Eugene

**In attendance: Co-Chairs:** Bob Graham, **NRCS State Conservationist**, and Larry Frey, **FSA State Director; NRCS:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Cec Cullison, Sara Magenheimer, Bill White, Russ Hatz, Jeff Goebel; Scott Zimmerman, **FSA:** Lois Loop; **US Forest Service:** Ray Abriel and Tom Hilken; **Farm Service Agency State Committee:** Sam Asai and Dalton Straus; **OSU Cooperative Extension Service:** Bill Braunworth; **Oregon Small Woodlands Association:** John Poppino; **The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation:** Mace Vaughn; **Oregon Department of Forestry:** Steve Vaught; **Oregon Tilth:** Chris Schreiner; **Oregon Wheat Growers League:** Tammy Dennee; **Oregon Water Trust:** Fritz Paulus; **Oregon Department of Agriculture SWCD:** Larry Ojua; **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts:** John McDonald; **Oregon Association of Nurseries:** John Aquirre, Michael McMahan (Fischer Farms)  
**EPA:** Sandy Halstead;